

The Knapheide Manufacturing Company

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October 24, 2014

*Vote on
November 4th*

For over 90 years, numerous members of our family have attended Madison School and we're still there with a first grader and a third grader. We've been blessed with great teachers and made many life-long friends. We imagine that similar things could be said about each of our grade schools.

That's why we were initially skeptical about discussions this past year about new school buildings. But several things have changed our minds.

FIRST, through our company's work with the school district to upgrade technology in the classrooms, we became acutely aware of the severe limitations that our current buildings have.

SECOND, the district has balanced its budget and retired a lot of debt over the last 4 years ... a period of general fiscal stress with declining state and federal revenues and flat local revenues. The district has created the capacity to issue new debt, whether to maintain current buildings or to build new **AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, STAY WITHIN ITS CURRENT TAX RATES.**

THIRD, the district has documented that \$52 million was spent to maintain our buildings the past 20 years and that \$66 million will be spent to maintain them in the next 20 years. It has prepared detailed plans for 5 new elementary schools and a significant expansion of the high school that will cost \$89 million. It is estimated that with fewer total school buildings and modern, more energy efficient new buildings, **THE DISTRICT WILL SAVE \$1.5 MILLION IN OPERATING EXPENSES ANNUALLY. THE DOLLAR SAVINGS MAKE A LOT OF SENSE TO US.**

Either option – maintain or build – will cost a lot and both can be done **WITHIN EXISTING TAX RATES.** The question is: Which one holds the greatest promise for our community? The Knapheide Company had a similar question a couple of decades ago. We chose to stay here and to build new. It was a tough choice, but the best one for our future.

The choice before our community is much the same and from our perspective, pretty clear. We strongly support the referendum and hope you will, too.

Sincerely,



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